

APOLO ANTON OHNO

When Apolo Anton Ohno was 15 years old, he made a decision that most kids his age aren't ready make. He decided what he wanted to do with his life.

Apolo was born May 22, 1982, in Washington state. He began speed skating when he was 14 years old. Even though he was very good, Apolo was not serious about skating. He did not train hard. He did not eat healthy. As a result, Apolo did not make the 1998 Winter Olympic team.

Not making the Olympic team made Apolo very upset. He thought about quitting. Apolo went away to think. He went to a cabin with no TV or phone. There, Apolo thought about whether or not he wanted to speed skate. He thought about what he wanted for his future. Sitting on a rock in the rain one morning, Apolo decided that he wanted to be a speed skater.

From then on, Apolo took skating seriously. This paid off. Apolo has won five Olympic gold medals. Only one other male Olympian has that many medals from the Winter Olympics. Apolo has been the U.S. overall champion eight times. He has been the World Cup



champion in the 500, 1000, 1500, and 3000-meter races. He has been the World Cup overall champion three times. Apolo is now one of the top speed skaters in the world.

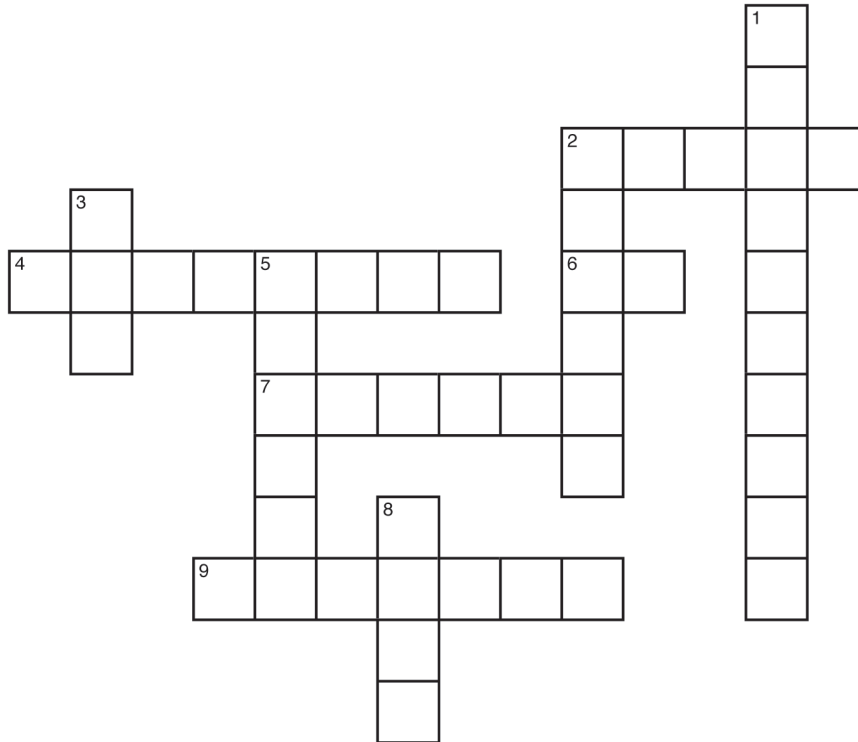
In 2007, Apolo took his fast moves to another place. He competed on the TV show *Dancing With the Stars*. There, he wowed audiences with his smooth moves. He and his dance partner danced their way to the top and won!

Apolo has proven that it takes more than talent to be a winner. It also takes desire, dedication, and hard work. These things have proven to be a winning formula for Apolo Anton Ohno.

Name _____

APOLO ANTON OHNO

Read each clue. Fill in the puzzle with the correct words from the story.



ACROSS:

2. Apolo and his dance partner took _____ place.
4. Apolo has been named the _____ champion in the 500 and 1000-meter races.
6. In 2007, Apolo competed on a _____ show.
7. Apolo is a speed _____.
9. At first, Apolo was not _____ about skating.

DOWN:

1. Apolo was born in _____ state.
2. Apolo thought about what he wanted for his _____.
3. Apolo is one of the _____ speed skaters in the world.
5. It also takes _____, dedication, and hard work to be a winner.
8. Apolo has won _____ Olympic gold medals.

Research: Find *speed skating* in an encyclopedia. When and where did speed skating start?